

BRAINSTORM!

Students practice brainstorming to come up with new ideas

Zone In

Question of the Week

1. Tell students they will present either a YES or NO to the question. They have 2 minutes to put together their arguments. They will have 1 minute to present.
2. Question: *Should parents limit TV time to 1 hour each day?*
3. Group divides into YES and NO sides, or assign. Each group chooses a Speaker.
4. Time 2 minutes. Each side's Speaker presents for 1 minute.
5. Ask for show of hands—YES, NO.

Topic

Brainstorming for new ideas

(Materials: none)

Introduction

What is brainstorming?

What types of things do you brainstorm with your friends about?

Explain: When do you brainstorm for school? Give students time to answer. Possible answers: when you need lots of ideas to do a research paper or report, to find solutions to a problem, find a topic, get started on writing, etc.

Ask: Why brainstorm? Possible answers: to get a lot of ideas before selecting and narrowing down, to share ideas with others, to try to come up with the best idea.

How do you brainstorm?

- Clearly state the problem or question you are brainstorming about.
- In a group, list ALL the ideas without comments or editing. If you're working alone, list all the ideas you can think of without worrying about good or bad or spelling.
- Go over the list. Look for themes. Do several items seem to go together? Is there a pattern?
- Come up with one or a few ideas to focus on.

Activity

Thought Race

1. Brainstorm to come up with ways to raise money for a class trip.
Have students split into groups.
Have each group brainstorm for 5 minutes then select their best idea.
Have each group present that idea.

OR

2. Name those tunes!
Split group into 2 teams.
Give each team 1 minute to come up with all the song titles they can with the word "blue" in it.
Team with the most titles wins.
Pick another word to brainstorm for song titles ("Love" produces a lot!).

Wrap up

Do students have anything coming up that can benefit from a brainstorm? What?
Does anyone want to find a partner or group to brainstorm with?